TERROR

A-FORCE® 9

MARVEL

CIVIL WAR™ II

THOMPSON - SIQUEIRA - ROSENBERG

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A-FORCE

A NEW INHUMAN NAMED ULYSSES, WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE VISIONS OF THE FUTURE, SENT A-FORCE ON A MISSION THAT LEFT SHE-HULK IN A COMA. CAPTAIN MARVEL WAS STILL DETERMINED TO USE ULYSSES' PREDICTIVE ABILITIES TO STOP THREATS BEFORE THEY HAPPENED, BUT WHEN ONE OF THOSE THREATS TURNED OUT TO BE NICO, A-FORCE FOUND ITSELF FRACTURED. CAPTAIN MARVEL AND MEDUSA BELIEVED THAT NICO WOULD KILL A YOUNG WOMAN NAMED ALICE IF SHE WASN'T CONTAINED, BUT NICO FLED BEFORE THEY COULD ARREST HER. WHEN SHE ARRIVED AT HER SAFE HOUSE IN OURAY, COLORADO, IT WAS OVERRUN WITH HUMANOID BUG CREATURES–AND A GIRL NAMED ALICE SEEMED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INFESTATION. NICO TEAMED UP WITH FOUL-MOUTHED MONSTER HUNTER ELSA BLOODSTONE TO SAVE THE TOWN, BUT CAPTAIN MARVEL AND MEDUSA CAUGHT UP TO HER FIRST! CAN THEY STOP NICO FROM COMMITTING MURDER?

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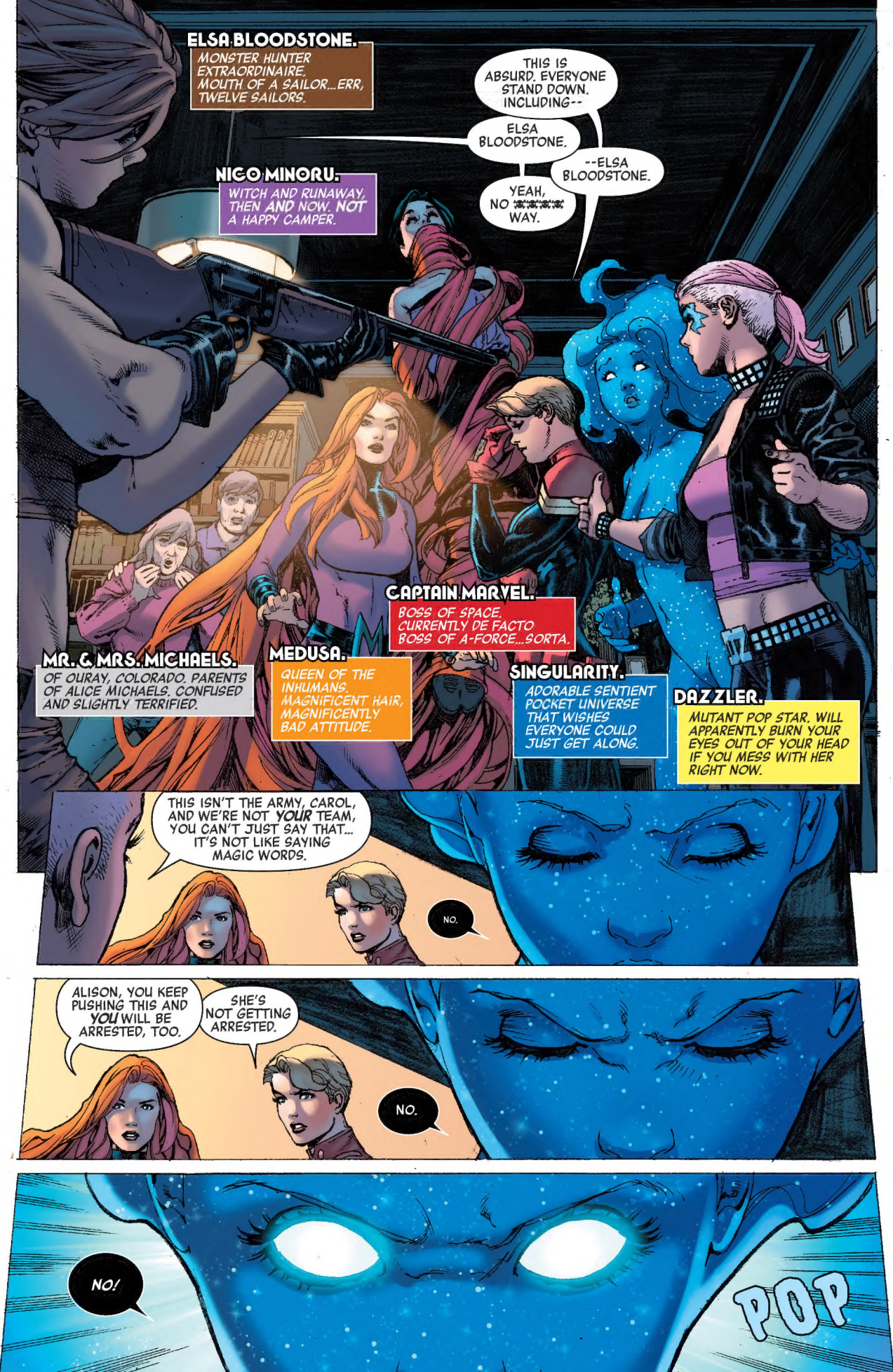
THE HOME OF JANINE AND ALBERT MICHAELS. OURAY, COLORADO.
NICO, DON'T LEAVE, AND DON'T... DO ANYTHING TO ME.
LET'S JUST TALK THIS OUT NICE AND EASY.
CAROL, YOU WANT TO ARREST ME BECAUSE SOME INHUMAN CRACKPOT NAMED ULYSESS SAYS I'M GOING TO KILL A WOMAN I'VE NEVER EVEN MET!
WHAT ABOUT THAT IS "NICE AND EASY"?
I DON'T WANT THIS TO GO LIKE LAST TIME WITH YOU RUNNING OFF. WE CAN TALK LIKE ADULTS, LIKE TEAMMATES, RIGHT?
...
YOU COULDN'T GIVE A GIRL A ***** HEADS-UP THAT CAPTAIN BLOODY MARVEL IS IN THE KITCHEN, JANINE?
YOU WANT ME TO RAT OUT CAPTAIN MARVEL, ELSA? GIMME A BREAK.
THIS IS ALL BOLLOCKS, YA ASK ME.

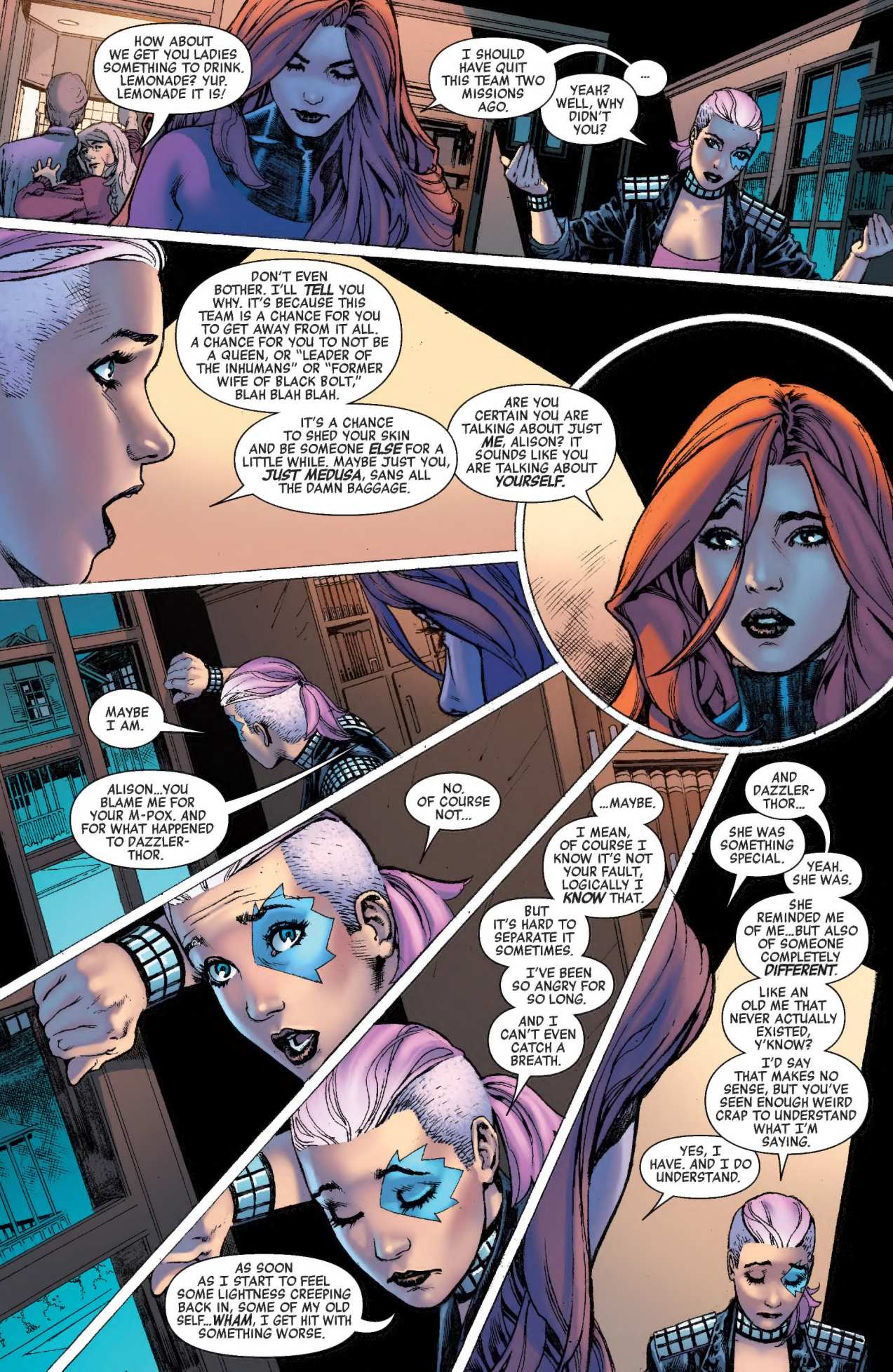
NICO, THE FACT THAT THE GIRL ULYSSES SAID YOU WOULD KILL IS HERE SOMEWHERE IN THIS TOWN HAS TO BE SHAKING YOU TO YOUR CORE.
I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO MURDER ANYONE.
THIS...THIS IS INSANE.
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING, CAROL.
I KNOW. BUT LET'S JUST GET YOU OUT OF HERE BEFORE ANYTHING DOES HAPPEN.
BUT SOMETHING AWFUL IS ALREADY HAPPENING HERE. WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE. THESE PEOPLE NEED OUR HELP.
I KNOW. MAYBE YOU SHOULD LEAVE AND WE'LL STAY AND HELP.
...YES.
BUT I'D LEAVE IN CUSTODY?
NO WAY.
?!
YOU B--
--MMMMPH RMMPHRGRRR!
FWIP FWIP FWIP
MEDUSA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

I AM NOT GETTING THROWN INTO A WALL OR LETTING NICO TELEPORT AWAY AGAIN, CAROL.
MEDUSA, THAT'S NOT...SHE WAS LISTENING TO ME. WE WERE WORKING IT OUT!
IT IS NOT A RISK WE CAN TAKE. THIS IS FOR HER OWN GOOD, YOU SAID SO YOURSELF.
WOW. WITH FRIENDS LIKE YOU GUYS, WHO NEEDS ENEMIES, HUH?
DROP HER, MEDUSA.
NICO?!
OR WHAT, DAZZLER? YOUR LIGHT BLASTS CANNOT EVEN BEGIN TO HARM MY HAIR.
I'M NOT AIMING FOR YOUR HAIR. I WAS THINKING MORE...BLINDING YOU, PROBABLY NOT PERMANENTLY.
BLOODY HELL. EVERY TIME I LEAVE A ROOM, THE ****** SUPER HERO COUNT DOUBLES.
I WAS SERIOUSLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT DAMN SANDWICH.
HANDS IN THE AIR, EVERYONE!


ELSA BLOODSTONE.
MONSTER HUNTER EXTRAORDINAIRE. MOUTH OF A SAILOR...ERR, TWELVE SAILORS.
NICO MINORU.
WITCH AND RUNAWAY, THEN AND NOW. NOT A HAPPY CAMPER.
THIS IS ABSURD. EVERYONE STAND DOWN. INCLUDING--
ELSA BLOODSTONE.
--ELSA BLOODSTONE.
YEAH, NO :x:x:x:x: WAY.
CAPTAIN MARVEL.
BOSS OF SPACE. CURRENTLY DE FACTO BOSS OF A-FORCE...SORTA.
MR. & MRS. MICHAELS.
OF OURAY, COLORADO. PARENTS OF ALICE MICHAELS. CONFUSED AND SLIGHTLY TERRIFIED.
MEDUSA.
QUEEN OF THE INHUMANS. MAGNIFICENT HAIR, MAGNIFICENTLY BAD ATTITUDE.
SINGULARITY.
ADORABLE SENTIENT POCKET UNIVERSE THAT WISHES EVERYONE COULD JUST GET ALONG.
DAZZLER.
MUTANT POP STAR. WILL APPARENTLY BURN YOUR EYES OUT OF YOUR HEAD IF YOU MESS WITH HER RIGHT NOW.
THIS ISN'T THE ARMY, CAROL, AND WE'RE NOT YOUR TEAM, YOU CAN'T JUST SAY THAT... IT'S NOT LIKE SAYING MAGIC WORDS.
NO.
ALISON, YOU KEEP PUSHING THIS AND YOU WILL BE ARRESTED, TOO.
SHE'S NOT GETTING ARRESTED.
NO.
NO!
POP

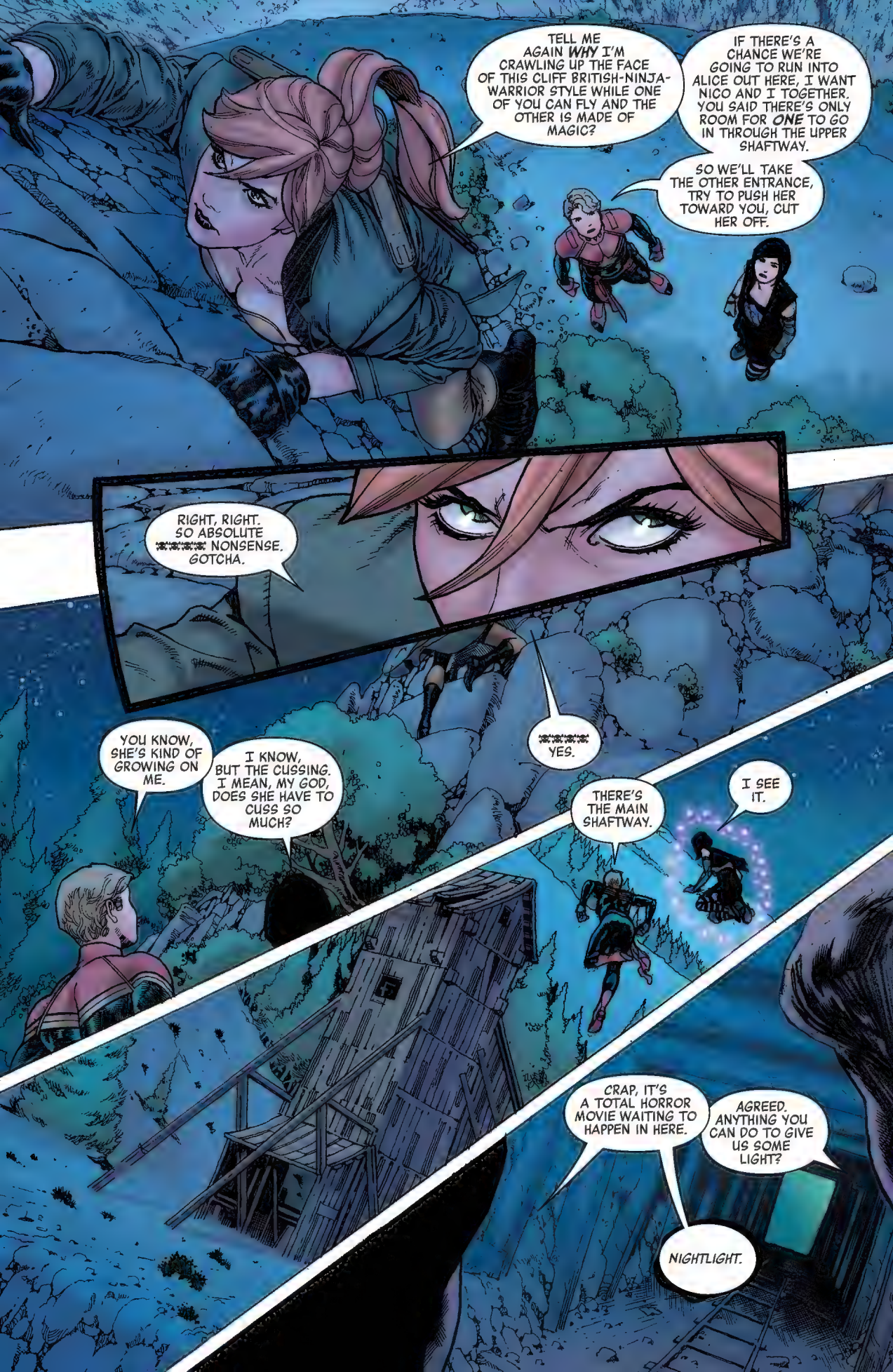
SOMEWHERE ABOVE THE TOWN OF OURAY, COLORADO.
EVERYONE WILL BE QUIET NOW. NO MORE FIGHTING.
OH, WHAT FRESH NEW HELL IS THIS *****?
LOOK WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE. LOOK WHAT IS HAPPENING TO *YOU*.
WE ARE A TEAM. WE ARE FRIENDS. WE ARE HEROES.
AND IT IS TIME WE SAVE THE DAY.
OR I PUT YOU ALL IN MY INSIDES UNTIL YOU CAN GET ALONG.
INSIDES? GOOD GOD, WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE *INTO?*

TEN MINUTES LATER.
THE HOME OF JANINE AND ALBERT MICHAELS... NOT SINGULARITY'S "INSIDES."
SO, IT'S SETTLED. TEAM ONE IS GOING TO THE LAST LOCATION ON ELSA'S LIST TO SEARCH FOR ALICE, AND IF SHE IS ACTUALLY SOMEHOW BEHIND ALL OF THIS, MAYBE SHE CAN HELP US PUT A STOP TO IT.
TEAM TWO WILL STAY HERE AND PROTECT THE CIVILIANS FROM FURTHER ATTACKS BY BUG...THINGS.
I'LL ASK YOU AGAIN, NICO, TO PLEASE CONSIDER STAYING BEHIND WITH TEAM TWO.
NOT SO LONG AS MEDUSA IS ON TEAM TWO. BESIDES, I DON'T THINK BEING IN ALICE'S HOME IS MUCH BETTER, CAROL.
=SIGH= ALL RIGHT. THEN YOU'RE WITH ME AND... ELSA.
ALISON, THAT LEAVES YOU AND MEDUSA TOGETHER ON THE GROUND WITH SINGULARITY TO HELP PROTECT THE TOWNSFOLK.
ANY BLINDING OR HAIR COCOON SHENANIGANS AND BLUE HERE HAS MY PERMISSION TO TELEPORT YOU BOTH TO SIBERIA AND LEAVE YOU THERE.
RIGHT, BLUE?
RIGHT!
OKAY, THEN. LET'S GO BE HEROES. OR SOMETHING VAGUELY IN THAT GENERAL DIRECTION.
MY KIND OF CALL TO ARMS.
TRUCE OR NOT, MEDUSA--DO THAT TO ME AGAIN AND YOU'LL BE GETTING A MAGICAL BUZZ CUT.


HOW ABOUT WE GET YOU LADIES SOMETHING TO DRINK. LEMONADE? YUP. LEMONADE IT IS!
I SHOULD HAVE QUIT THIS TEAM TWO MISSIONS AGO.
...
YEAH? WELL, WHY DIDN'T YOU?
DON'T EVEN BOTHER. I'LL TELL YOU WHY. IT'S BECAUSE THIS TEAM IS A CHANCE FOR YOU TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL. A CHANCE FOR YOU TO NOT BE A QUEEN, OR "LEADER OF THE INHUMANS" OR "FORMER WIFE OF BLACK BOLT," BLAH BLAH BLAH.
IT'S A CHANCE TO SHED YOUR SKIN AND BE SOMEONE ELSE FOR A LITTLE WHILE. MAYBE JUST YOU, JUST MEDUSA, SANS ALL THE DAMN BAGGAGE.
ARE YOU CERTAIN YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT JUST ME, ALISON? IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT YOURSELF.
MAYBE I AM.
ALISON...YOU BLAME ME FOR YOUR M-POX. AND FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO DAZZLER-THOR.
NO. OF COURSE NOT...
...MAYBE. I MEAN, OF COURSE I KNOW IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, LOGICALLY I KNOW THAT.
BUT IT'S HARD TO SEPARATE IT SOMETIMES.
I'VE BEEN SO ANGRY FOR SO LONG.
AND I CAN'T EVEN CATCH A BREATH.
AS SOON AS I START TO FEEL SOME LIGHTNESS CREEPING BACK IN, SOME OF MY OLD SELF...WHAM, I GET HIT WITH SOMETHING WORSE.
AND DAZZLER-THOR...
SHE WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL.
YEAH. SHE WAS.
SHE REMINDED ME OF ME...BUT ALSO OF SOMEONE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
LIKE AN OLD ME THAT NEVER ACTUALLY EXISTED, Y'KNOW?
I'D SAY THAT MAKES NO SENSE, BUT YOU'VE SEEN ENOUGH WEIRD CRAP TO UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING.
YES, I HAVE. AND I DO UNDERSTAND.

YOU HAVE HAD NO TIME TO GRIEVE, ALISON. FOR HER OR EVEN FOR YOURSELF. BUT YOU MUST MAKE TIME FOR THIS. AND YOU AND I MUST MAKE PEACE. FOR THE SAKE OF EVERYONE.
YOU MUST KNOW, IF I COULD DO ANYTHING TO HELP YOU, I WOULD.
I WOULD MOVE MOUNTAINS.
I KNOW.
I'M SORRY.
AS AM I.
CAROL'S STILL WRONG ABOUT THIS, THOUGH.
HEH. LET US NOT PUSH IT.
FINALLY! HUGS!
CRASH
OH NO, ALBERT! NOOOOO!
AIIIIEEE!
?!
CHIK CHIT
SKRITCH
CHIK

MEANWHILE...
SO, EXPLAIN TO ME HOW--AS SUPER HEROES--WE JUSTIFY ARRESTING PEOPLE WHO HAVEN'T ACTUALLY DONE ANYTHING YET?
...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL YOU, NICO. AS MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT, THE REALITY IS, I CAN'T SAVE EVERYONE.
I HAVE TO MAKE TOUGH CALLS EVERY DAY, AND IF THERE'S SOMEONE LIKE ULYSSES WHO CAN HELP MAKE THOSE CALLS MORE...ACCURATE, MORE PRECISE, THEN THAT'S HUGE.
I HAVE TO TAKE THE PATH THAT SAVES THE MOST LIVES, THAT HELPS THE MOST PEOPLE, THAT DOES THE MOST GOOD, EVEN IF IT HURTS... EVEN IF IT KILLS PEOPLE I LOVE.
BEING A HERO IS ALWAYS ABOUT SACRIFICE. IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN AND IT ALWAYS WILL BE.
I AGREE. BUT WHAT YOU'RE DESCRIBING...IT'S BASICALLY AN "ENDS JUSTIFIES THE MEANS" PHILOSOPHY.
I DON'T THINK IT'S THAT SIMPLE, NICO.
BUT IT IS.
YOU'RE SAYING THAT IF RUINING MY LIFE...KILLING ME, LOCKING ME UP, WHATEVER, IF THAT SAVES LIVES THEN IT'S WORTH IT TO YOU.
HOW IS THAT NOT MEANS JUSTIFIED BY ENDS?
...
HOW YOU GET THERE ALWAYS MATTERS. IN SOME WAYS, IT'S ALL THAT SEPARATES US FROM THE MANIACAL VILLAINS WE'RE CONSTANTLY TRYING TO STOP.
WE'RE... YOU'RE ON THE SLIPPERIEST OF SLOPES.
YOU THINK I WANTED IT THIS WAY, NICO? YOU THINK I'M DOING THIS JUST FOR ALICE? NO WAY--WE CAN SAVE YOU BOTH.
YOU'RE NO MURDERER, NICO. NOT ON MY WATCH.
OR MAYBE I AM. BUT THAT'S NOT FOR YOU TO DECIDE. YOU CAN'T FIGHT THE FUTURE, CAROL.
YOU THINK YOU'RE SEEING MORE CLEARLY THAN EVER, BUT REALLY YOU'VE GOT BLINDERS ON.
HEY. SO THERE'S [redacted] DEFINITELY SOMETHING IN THERE.
AH!
AND WE THINK IT'S ALICE BECAUSE...?
SHE USED TO WORK AS A SUMMER TOUR GUIDE UP HERE. KNOWS HER WAY AROUND.
ALL RIGHT. LET'S GO, THEN.


TELL ME AGAIN WHY I'M CRAWLING UP THE FACE OF THIS CLIFF BRITISH-NINJA-WARRIOR STYLE WHILE ONE OF YOU CAN FLY AND THE OTHER IS MADE OF MAGIC?
IF THERE'S A CHANCE WE'RE GOING TO RUN INTO ALICE OUT HERE, I WANT NICO AND I TOGETHER. YOU SAID THERE'S ONLY ROOM FOR ONE TO GO IN THROUGH THE UPPER SHAFTWAY.
SO WE'LL TAKE THE OTHER ENTRANCE, TRY TO PUSH HER TOWARD YOU, CUT HER OFF.
RIGHT, RIGHT. SO ABSOLUTE ****** NONSENSE. GOTCHA.
YOU KNOW, SHE'S KIND OF GROWING ON ME.
I KNOW, BUT THE CUSSING. I MEAN, MY GOD, DOES SHE HAVE TO CUSS SO MUCH?
****** YES.
THERE'S THE MAIN SHAFTWAY.
I SEE IT.
CRAP, IT'S A TOTAL HORROR MOVIE WAITING TO HAPPEN IN HERE.
AGREED. ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO GIVE US SOME LIGHT?
NIGHTLIGHT.

DO YOU HEAR THAT?
OH, YEAH.
RUSTLE RUSTLE
CHIK
CHITTER
SKRITCH
GET DOWN!
[redacted]! BLOODY HELL, CAPTAIN!
SORRY.
YOU COULDN'T HAVE SAID SOMETHING? LET US KNOW YOU WERE DROPPING DOWN LIKE SOME KIND OF WEIRD SPIDER?
I THOUGHT WE WERE BEING SNEAKY.
RUMBLE RUMBLE
ALSO, MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE BEST IDEA TO SHOOT A BLOODY PHOTON BLAST IN A RICKETY, OLD, ABANDONED [redacted] MINE.
YOU GUYS SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE.
NICO?
GOGOGOGOGOGOGO--
--MONARCHS.

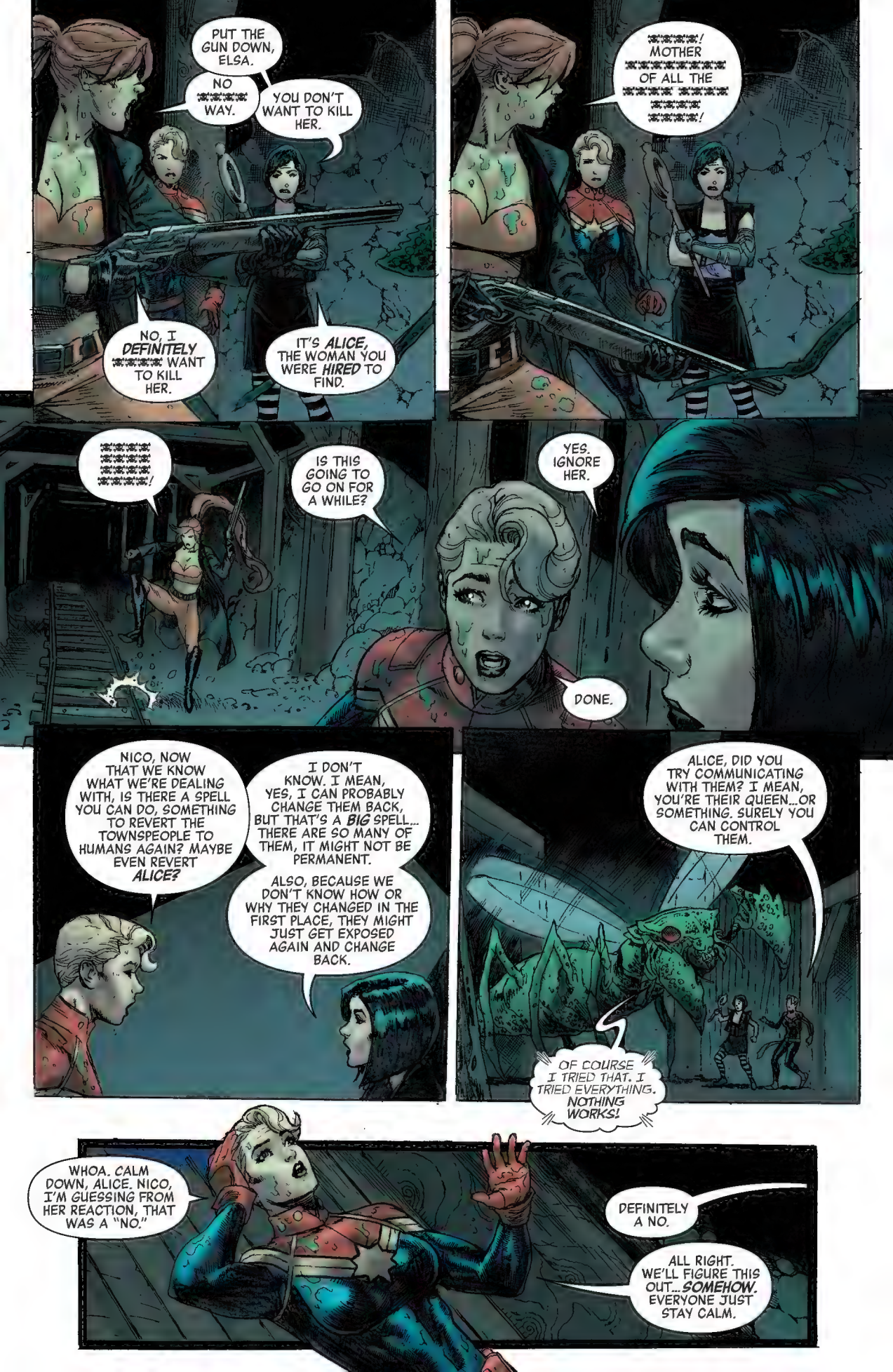
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
CHIK
CHIT
SKRITCH
OH, THANK GOD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.
WAIT... THERE'S SOMETHING...
HIT IT AGAIN!
DON'T LET IT [redacted] STAB YOU OR YOU'LL CHANGE!
SMACK
FWOOOM
FWASSSH
EEEEEEE CREEEEEE REEEEEEE!
...NICO, GET OUT OF THE WAY!
SPLORCH
GAH!
AH!
G--
--ARRGH!

GRAGG GGZZZBZZ EEEEEEE REEE
N-NO!
STOP SQUIRMING, NICO. I'M NOT GONNA HURT YOU.

HUH?
ARE YOU... ARE YOU TALKING INSIDE MY HEAD?
GOD, I HOPE SO. IT'S REALLY HARD TO GET PEOPLE TO LISTEN OVER ALL THE SCREAMING.
I'LL BET.
CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
DO I LOOK LIKE I KNOW?
FAIR POINT. BUT YOU ARE ALICE, RIGHT?
I WAS...AM... I DUNNO. YES. I ONCE WAS CALLED ALICE. FEELS LIKE A LIFETIME AGO, THOUGH.
IT WAS ONLY A FEW DAYS, NOT EVEN A WEEK.
FEELS LONGER.
CAN I GET MY FRIENDS DOWN?
YEAH, BUT IF THEY ATTACK ME AGAIN I'M GOING TO DO SOMETHING EVEN GROSSER TO THEM.

CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT THAT WOULD BE.
I HEARD THAT.
THEY PROBABLY CAN'T BREATHE IN THERE. YOU SHOULD HURRY.
CRAP.
GOO BE GONE.
FWA
AGEN
=GASP=
=KOFF= I HAVE HAD SOME DISGUSTING THINGS =KOFF= HAPPEN TO ME IN MY DAY...BUT THAT IS...TOP TEN...EASY.
=KOFF= I HAVE TO ***** KILL SOMEONE IMMEDIATELY.

=KOFF= NICO, GET AWAY FROM THAT =KOFF= THING.
NO, SHE'S OKAY...SHE'S COMMUNICATING WITH ME. I CAN HEAR HER IN MY HEAD.
SO, YOU'RE DIFFERENT THAN THE REST OF THESE THINGS SOMEHOW...
I MADE THEM.
YOU WHAT?!
=KOFF= TELL HER SHE'S AN [redacted].
I DIDN'T MEAN TO.
I WOKE UP ONE DAY LIKE THIS. I TOOK OFF BECAUSE, I MEAN...
...HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THIS?!
SURE, SURE. IT'S AN AWKWARD CONVERSATION, NO DOUBT.
AWKWARD. PFFT. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
SO I CAME UP HERE TO GET AWAY FROM EVERYONE, BUT I MUST HAVE, I DUNNO, INFECTED SOMEONE ON THE WAY UP HERE SOMEHOW. BEFORE I KNEW IT, THE TOWN WAS CHANGING...THEY'RE LIKE ME, BUT NOT THE SAME.
I CAN HEAR THEM IN MY HEAD, CHATTERING AWAY, ALMOST HUMAN, ALMOST BUG-THING, TRAPPED SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN.
IT'S MADDENING.


PUT THE GUN DOWN, ELSA.
NO [redacted] WAY.
YOU DON'T WANT TO KILL HER.
NO, I DEFINITELY [redacted] WANT TO KILL HER.
IT'S ALICE, THE WOMAN YOU WERE HIRED TO FIND.
[redacted]! MOTHER [redacted] OF ALL THE [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]!
[redacted]!
IS THIS GOING TO GO ON FOR A WHILE?
YES. IGNORE HER.
DONE.
NICO, NOW THAT WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH, IS THERE A SPELL YOU CAN DO, SOMETHING TO REVERT THE TOWNSPEOPLE TO HUMANS AGAIN? MAYBE EVEN REVERT ALICE?
I DON'T KNOW. I MEAN, YES, I CAN PROBABLY CHANGE THEM BACK, BUT THAT'S A BIG SPELL... THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM, IT MIGHT NOT BE PERMANENT.
ALSO, BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHY THEY CHANGED IN THE FIRST PLACE, THEY MIGHT JUST GET EXPOSED AGAIN AND CHANGE BACK.
ALICE, DID YOU TRY COMMUNICATING WITH THEM? I MEAN, YOU'RE THEIR QUEEN...OR SOMETHING. SURELY YOU CAN CONTROL THEM.
OF COURSE I TRIED THAT. I TRIED EVERYTHING. NOTHING WORKS!
WHOA. CALM DOWN, ALICE. NICO, I'M GUESSING FROM HER REACTION, THAT WAS A "NO."
DEFINITELY A NO.
ALL RIGHT. WE'LL FIGURE THIS OUT...SOMEHOW. EVERYONE JUST STAY CALM.

WE DON'T NEED TO FIGURE IT OUT. I FIGURED IT OUT AS SOON AS I SAW WHAT NICO CAN DO.
THE OTHERS COULDN'T HURT ME... THIS BODY, IT'S JUST TOO POWERFUL FOR MERE PHYSICAL ASSAULTS.
BUT YOU, NICO...
NO, DON'T SAY IT. PLEASE.
...I NEED YOU TO KILL ME.
...
NO... I CAN'T... I...
CAP...CAP, WHAT DO I DO...? MAYBE YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT ALL OF THIS...I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. SHE WANTS ME TO--
--CAROL?!

ELSA, NO!
BYRNE WAS HERE!!!
NEXT:
HELP US WELCOME OUR NEW BUG OVERLORDS!

A-LETTERS PAGE

HOW AMAZING IS THAT LAST PAGE, AMIRITE? TELL ME, WHO SAW THAT COMING? NONE OF YOU. MAN, ELSA IS GONNA BE PISSED WHEN SHE FINDS OUT SHE GOT TURNED INTO A BUG. I DOUBT WE'LL HAVE ENOUGH ROOM FOR ALL THE SKULL SWEARS. BUT NOW, KELLY IS HERE TO ANSWER YOUR LETTERS, SWEAR-FREE!

Woof. Yeah, Elsa's never gonna get in those hot springs–she is gonna be pissssssed. Anyway, I hope you guys are enjoying A-FORCE's entry in CIVIL WAR II so far, and by "enjoying" I of course mean wringing your hands with worry, sobbing and occasionally laughing (but then feeling bad about laughing because everything is so terrible)! Come back next month for our final installment and find out if our ladies make it back out the other side of this one. And if so, can they still be friends? It's always darkest before the dawn, blah blah blah, amirite?!

Dear A-FORCE Team,
I would like to write to thank you for putting together an excellent book! From the character design to the dynamic storytelling, A-FORCE is a fabulous book for new readers and longtime comics fans. My fiancé and I have both been reading and we look forward to each new issue. Please keep the A-Force gals around for a long time!

Jeffrey Mudry

P.S. I have also really enjoyed the new SCARLET WITCH book. Any chance of a team-up in the future?

Hey, Jeffrey, like you, I hope A-FORCE is around forever and that I'm writing it forever (but the latter is probably too much to hope, so let's focus on the former!). We were extremely lucky to have Ben Caldwell and I'm glad you guys enjoyed it. The SCARLET WITCH book is very cool...but I think our ladies are pretty burned out on reality warpers...they might stage a walkout if Wanda showed up!

Hey, A-FORCE Crew!
Just wanted to let you know that you've brought a smile to this fan's face! As a long-time Marvelite, I really appreciate ongoing continuity, and sometimes a few things slip through the cracks between creative teams and series endings. And here you are, in the process of tying up one of those loose ends that was left dangling for Dazzler! Thank you!

I was reading Claremont's NEW EXCALIBUR as it was being released, and I remember how he never got around to explaining Dazzler's mysterious resurrections. When Dazzler "died" in A-FORCE #3, I immediately recalled NEW EXCALIBUR and wondered if that was where you were going with it. I was pleasantly surprised in #4 that this was not only directly related to those events, but that now Dazzler is on the path to seeking out answers! The reveal in #5 that Alison is afflicted with M-Pox doesn't have me too worried, and I'm expecting that will tie into her un-killable nature; but has me wondering if maybe she also holds the cure for other mutants? I have a theory on the specifics of the M-Pox virus, but in case I'm right about it, I won't write it here, since it would keep you from printing my letter, lol. ;-)

Another abandoned Dazzler subplot was tied up a couple years ago in Peter David's X-FACTOR, when we finally definitively learned that Dazzler is Shatterstar's mother. Now that that's a concrete fact (in addition to exactly how Longshot and Shatterstar are related), can we get a Dazzler/Shatterstar team-up?

I'm also a major RUNAWAYS fan, so Nico's inclusion on the A-Force roster guaranteed I'd be on board for this series. It's nice to see her gradually becoming besties with Dazzler. And it goes without saying, I would be all for a future guest appearance by Gertrude Yorkes, to tie up the dangling subplot from the final issue of the last ongoing series for RUNAWAYS! Make Mine Marvel!

Mark McCracken

Hey, Mark! Yeah, continuity is a tricky thing. You can't always make it work, and not EVERY idea is a good one that should (or can) be picked up and followed through, but I'm definitely a fan of using it when you can and building on what already exists, hopefully toward a stronger and more interesting whole. In Dazzler's case especially, we thought a lot about where she was currently as a character and where we wanted to take her–she is in a very rich place right now for development and we are really lucky to get to be playing with that. As for the M-Pox stuff, please keep in mind that I'm not in charge of that particular plotline and how it develops. We coordinated with all the appropriate folks to bring it into A-FORCE (and those people were SUPER helpful and encouraging), but you're unlikely to see a storyline like that resolve in our pages as it doesn't belong to us, it's just one of the many threads that tie us to other books and events in the larger Marvel U!

I wanted to thank you for A-FORCE! It is amazing! From the characters to the writing to the art, I am so invested in this story! You are all doing such a great job and I cannot wait to see what happens next. Thank you for all your hard work!

Danielle

Hi, Danielle! Thank you so much. We're so glad you're enjoying it! Here's to us getting to do it FOREVER. ☺

So, despite following another gem of a book that Kelly writes, it was because of Ben Caldwell that I got the last three issues. I liked everything about them, but pressure on the purse may mean I won't be back for a while...unless, unless...Tales of Dazzgard! Dazz-Loki! The Warriors Three in silver lamé armor! Ragnarpunkrock!

Make this mine, Marvel!
(Please?)
David Morris

David...you...wrote in to tell us you aren't buying us anymore even though you love us?! I honestly don't know what to do with this information! More seriously, I definitely understand the money strain, comics are not cheap and there's a lot of them out there, but I hope you'll change your mind since you consider us awesome enough to send us a letter!

Dear A-FORCE Team,

Oh man, that cover was really creepy with Countess digging her dragon claws into Nico. I couldn't look at it for long without feeling uneasy. Go Nico for breaking the Countess' mind control, not enough to act of her own will but at least enough to assist the team into motion. I liked all the super-shocked faces of the team when they breathed again.

The art has its strengths and weaknesses, where the characters are wonderfully unique and their emotions are always lively but the world feels hollow when the background is just a color instead of the town transformed into a mystical setting or the forest. Notable art props in this issue include Dazzler Thor's Lightbringer having God King Doom's image in Celtic interlace art, with the bonus of being lit up by her Dazzler powers along with some of her armor, Countess's dragon form having a skull for a nose (keeping up with her love of skulls) and the power of love scene.

I continue to enjoy Singularity's infectious positivity, especially when she hugs Dazzler Thor after the Terrigen Mist news. I love that She-Hulk and Carol threw Countess so hard that even the onomatopoeia of when she hits the ground shatters from the force. Poor Dazzler Thor, we knew ye so little but together we witnessed your bravery in the face of a tyrant and certain death–yet you still delivered justice even through realities, and with Lightbringer you commanded the fury of lighting and the drums of thunder. You shall be missed. Hopefully Dazzler Thor brought enough light to allow the rest of A-FORCE to use the power of love for Alison to shine bright again.

Not looking forward to the CIVIL WAR II tie-in (I mean, I am, because everyone working on this title is great, but, well, you know what I mean). Please return to us soon, She-Hulk.

Thank you for your time,
Christian Romano

Hey, Christian,
Yes, Dazzler-Thor, I will miss her forever (or until someone lets me bring her back)! And Ben Caldwell is indeed the best in the biz when it comes to drawing in SFX...I love how he incorporates them into his work, it's one of those cool little attention-to-detail things he does that really levels him up in my mind as an artist. I hope you are enjoying the CIVIL WAR II tie-in, despite your reservations. I know not everyone digs events (or tie-ins), but I think this event happens to create a particularly emotional and resonant story for our ladies. It's gonna be rough, but I hope we'll learn a lot and laugh and maybe even cry...such is life, right?!

Kelly

KEEP SENDING YOUR LETTERS TO **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** AND DON'T FORGET TO MARK THEM "OKAY TO PRINT"!
COME BACK NEXT MONTH TO SEE SOME CRAZY FREAKING BUG-PEOPLE!

A-FORCE 10